

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 01008 170021Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 162342Z JAN 78
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 1008

EXDIS

FOR TARNOFF, TRATTNER AND LAKE

FROM SPIEGEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S OPENING STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS A TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S OPENING STATEMENT
WHICH HE PLANS TO DELIVER AT APPROXIMATELY 11 AM JERUSALEM
TIME FEBRUARY 17.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

-- MR. CHAIRMAN, LET ME FIRST EXPRESS TO OUR HOST MY
DELEGATION'S APPRECIATION FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE
BEEN MADE FOR THE MEETINGS THAT ARE OPENING TODAY.

-- WE OWE A DEEP DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO PRESIDENT SADAT
AND TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN FOR THEIR STEPS TOWARD PEACE
WHICH HAVE BROUGHT US TO THIS ROOM. WE ARE HERE BECAUSE
OF THE COURAGE AND VISION OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME
MINISTER BEGIN IN SWEEPING ASIDE THE BARRIERS THAT FOR
SO LONG SEPARATED ARABS FROM ISRAELIS, BARRIERS THAT HAVE
CAUSED SO MANY WARS AND SO MUCH BLOODSHED. WE ARE HERE
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TO WORK TO BRING TO FRUITION THE TASK BEGUN BY
PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN
JERUSALEM AND ISMAILIA, AND IN THE CAIRO CONFERENCE,
OF WHICH THIS COMMITTEE IS AN OUTGROWTH.

-- PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SENT ME TO REPRESENT THE
UNITED STATES AT THE OPENING OF THESE TALKS TO

DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE THAT WE ATTACH TO THEM AND TO THEIR SUCCESS. SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, WE HAVE PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT. OUR FRIENDSHIPS WITH ALL OF THE PARTIES ARE WARM AND STRONG. FOR THE MEETINGS THAT BEGIN THIS MORNING, WE PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE PARTIES TO REACH AGREEMENT.

-- THE COMMON GOAL OF ALL -- EGYPT, ISRAEL, THE UNITED STATES, AND THOSE ABSENT TODAY, BUT WHO WE HOPE WILL SOON JOIN IN OUR EFFORTS -- IS A JUST, LASTING AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. IF THIS COMMITTEE IS TO SUCCEED IN ITS GOAL OF PREPARING THE WAY FOR SUCH A PEACE, IT MUST COME TO GRIPS WITH THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF SUBSTANCE WHICH CONTINUE TO SEPARATE THE PARTIES. AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SAID, WE BELIEVE THERE ARE CERTAIN PRINCIPLES WHICH MUST BE OBSERVED BEFORE A JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED. FIRST, TRUE PEACE MUST BE BASED ON NORMAL RELATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES TO THE PEACE. PEACE MEANS MORE THAN JUST THE END TO BELLIGERENCY. SECOND, THERE MUST BE WITHDRAWAL BY ISRAEL FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND AGREEMENT ON SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS FOR ALL PARTIES, IN THE CONTEXT OF NORMAL AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. AND, THIRD, THERE MUST BE A RESOLUTION
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OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. THE SOLUTION MUST RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ENABLE THE PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE.

-- THOSE OF US HERE TODAY BEAR A SPECIAL AND VERY HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY AS REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR GOVERNMENTS AND AS INDIVIDUALS. WE MUST DEAL WITH AND OVERCOME MANY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. WE WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE, TODAY BY WORLD OPINION, TOMORROW BY HISTORY. WE WILL NOT BE JUDGED LIGHTLY IF WE FAIL.

-- IT IS ENTIRELY FITTING THAT THIS WORK BE DONE IN JERUSALEM -- JERUSALEM, CITY OF PEACE, CITY WHICH HAS KNOWN SO MUCH STRIFE AND BLOODSHED, CITY HOLY TO OUR THREE RELIGIONS. WE MUST CARRY FORWARD HERE THE WORK ALREADY BEGUN. AS PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY SUGGESTED, THE ROAD TO PEACE CAN LEAD THROUGH JERUSALEM AND CAIRO ULTIMATELY TO A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE.

-- IT IS ALSO FITTING THAT THIS WORK SHOULD BEGIN AS ISRAEL APPROACHES ITS THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

THERE COULD BE NO GREATER GIFT, TO THE PEOPLE OF
ISRAEL AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE ARAB WORLD, THAN TO
MAKE THIS ANNIVERSARY THE BIRTHDAY OF PEACE.

-- SO, IN THIS PLACE AND AT THIS TIME, LEFOR WHICH THE PEOPLES
OF THIS AREA HAVE SO LONG YEARNED.
VANCE

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